

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 AGR-05 /082 W

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R 080512Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6484

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, TH

SUBJ: THAI-PRC TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BANGKOK 26055

1. ACCORDING TO A "BANGKOK POST" ARTICLE OF 22 DECEMBER 1975, 14 FIRMS HAVE APPLIED TO THE FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT TO IMPORT CHINESE PRODUCTS ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. THE FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT PASSED THE APPLICATIONS TO THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE FOR A DECISION. ACCORDING TO THE "POST" ARTICLE THE GOODS THE FIRMS WISH TO IMPORT INCLUDE LONGAN FRUIT, READYMADE WEAR, ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, PRESERVED VEGETABLES FRUIT, CANNED GOODS, MUSHROOMS, BEANS, NUTS AND MEDICINAL HERBS. THE COMPANIES INFORMED THE FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY PLACED ORDERS FOR THE CHINESE GOODS IN IGNORANCE OF THAI GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS.

2. THE FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT PASSED THE APPLICATIONS TO THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITHOUT OBJECTIONS FOR THE IMPORT

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OF CHINESE ONIONS AND DRIED GARLIC. LOCAL BUSINESSMEN

HAVE OBJECTED STRONGLY TO THE IMPORT OF THE CHINESE GOODS, PARTICULARLY READYMADE WEAR, CLAIMING THE IMPORTS WOULD DAMAGE LOCAL INDUSTRY AND RESULT IN AN UNNECESSARY LOSS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO MR. OB VASURAT, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE OF THAILAND, THE VALUE OF GOODS EXPORTED FROM THAILAND TO THE PRC DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1975 WAS ONLY B40,679, WHILE THE TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE PRC WAS B168,300,000. THAI CONCERN OVER THIS IMBALANCE PROBABLY WILL RESULT IN INCREASED PRESSURE TO BALANCE THE TRADE DEFICIT WITH CHINA. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL CONFLICT WITH CHINA'S DESIRES TO INCREASE THEIR EXPORTS TO THAILAND WHILE MAINTAINING THEIR IMPORTS AT OR NEAR PRESENT LEVELS. WHITEHOUSE

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